

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./NEA/IRN:CWNAAS/HLK

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

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----- 097165

O P 101948Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MASS, IR

SUBJECT: FRG/IRAN AGREEMENT

REF: TEHRAN 6854

1. WE BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO ALERT THE SHAH TO OUR POSITION IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THE GERMANS HAVE INFORMED HIM, OR WILL DO SO, OF OUR APPROACH TO THEM. ALSO, WE EXPECT PRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONING AND WE WILL HAVE TO RESPOND. IN LIGHT OF OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR HIM TO BE INFORMED BEFORE THIS HITS THE PRESS. IN VIEW OF YOUR JUDGMENT OF THE REACTION OF THE SHAH TO PREVIOUS TALKING POINT, HOWEVER, WE HAVE REVISED THEM AS FOLLOWS:

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--THE FRG RECENTLY INFORMED US THAT IT WAS PROCEEDING WITH

A NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN, WHICH INCLUDED COMMITMENTS IN PRINCIPLE ON THE PROVISION IN THE FUTURE OF REPROCESSING AND ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY AND REQUESTED OUR VIEWS. IN RESPONSE WE STATED OUR BASIC VIEWS, WITH WHICH HIS MAJESTY IS FAMILIAR, ABOUT PREMATURE COMMITMENTS TO EXPORT REPROCESSING AND/OR ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY, WHILE KEY SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO NEW NATIONAL FACILITIES WHICH WOULD ADVANCE OUR MUTUAL NON-PROLIFERATION

OBJECTIVES AND MEET REPROCESSING NEEDS IN A MORE ECONOMICAL MANNER. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WELCOMED THE INDICATIONS THAT SUCH COMMITMENTS WOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS, AND WE NOTED TO THE GERMANS OUR OWN SPECIAL TIES WITH AND CONFIDENCE IN IRAN.

--HIS MAJESTY WILL UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, GIVEN THE FACT OF STRONG PUBLIC, PRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF OUR DOMESTIC NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM AND THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. WE, THEREFORE, MAY BE QUESTIONED ON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FRG/IRAN AGREEMENT AND WILL HAVE TO MAKE SOME RESPONSE, SINCE WE CANNOT IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORT REPROCESSING.

--WE SHALL DO OUR UTMOST TO HANDLE THIS MATTER IN A LOW-KEY MANNER AND OUR PRESS GUIDANCE WAS DRAWN UP WITH THIS IN MIND.

2. FOLLOWING IS REVISED PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH YOU SHOULD CONVEY TO SHAH: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FRG DURING THE COURSE OF ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN ON THIS AGREEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL FOCUS ON CONDITIONS RELATED TO THE DELIVERY OF TWO NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS TO IRAN WHICH ARE PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION. IRAN IS A PARTY TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE IAEA, AND, THEREFORE, THESE REACTORS, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND MATERIALS, WHICH IRAN MAY ACQUIRE, WILL BE UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS. WE OURSELVES LOOK FORWARD TO COMPLETION OF OUR OWN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR

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COOPERATION WITH IRAN. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRG WE MADE CLEAR OUR OVERALL NON-PROLIFERATION CONCERNS ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF SENSITIVE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS REPROCESSING OR ENRICHMENT. IN LINE WITH OUR NON-PROLIFERATION OBJECTIVES, WE BELIEVE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, BOTH SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS, NEED FURTHER TIME TO CONSIDER THE BEST MEANS FOR ASSURING SAFE, ECONOMICAL AND EQUITABLE WAYS TO MEET FURTHER NUCLEAR FUEL NEEDS.

(IF PRESSED, WHETHER GERMANY HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO EXPORT REPROCESSING OR ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY TO IRAN); THAT IS REALLY A QUESTION FOR THE GERMANS AND IRAN TO ANSWER IN ANY DETAIL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT IS A BROAD ONE WHICH PERMITS POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE BUT THAT THIS COOPERATION WOULD HAVE TO BE THE SUBJECT OF A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT IN THE FUTURE BETWEEN THE PARTIES. HOWEVER, IRAN, AS YOU KNOW, IS JUST

BEGINNING ITS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM AND WILL NOT HAVE OPERATING NUCLEAR REACTORS UNTIL THE 1980'S. END PRESS GUIDANCE.

3. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE GERMANS THAT THERE IS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY WILL NOT BE TRANSFERRED FOR SEVERAL YEARS BUT THAT IRANIANS DID NOT WISH THIS MADE PUBLIC. ETEMAD, AS WELL, TOLD US IN APRIL THAT REPROCESSING WAS A DISTANT THING, BUT WE HAVE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT BY IRANIANS TO THIS EFFECT. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE PARTIES AGREED THAT, WHEN A DECISION WERE TO BE MADE TO REPROCESS OR INSTALL ENRICHMENT FACILITIES, THEY WOULD CONSIDER EXISTING MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD THE FOLLOWING AT END OF ABOVE PRESS GUIDANCE, IF SHAH AGREES: "FURTHERMORE, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT IRAN WOULD NOT PLAN TO NEGOTIATE FOR A REPROCESSING OR ENRICHMENT FACILITY FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, UNTIL IT HAD NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN OPERATION, AND THAT PRIOR TO ANY DECISION ON REPROCESSING OR ENRICHMENT, ANY THEN EXISTING MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED."

4. IN CONVEYING FOREGOING TO SHAH PLEASE ASCERTAIN
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WHETHER HE WOULD AGREE THAT THE ABOVE SENTENCE BE ADDED TO OUR PRESS GUIDANCE, EXPLAINING TO HIM THAT THIS COULD BE HELPFUL IN DEFUSING REACTION HERE. WE EXPECT TO HAVE TO RESPOND TO QUERIES WHEN CONGRESS RETURNS FROM RECESS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE171476
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ALATHERTON, JR./NEA/IRN:CWNAAS/HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760267-0188
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760770/aaaacjry.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 TEHRAN 6854
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <24 MAR 2004 by greeneet, REFER TO DOE>; RELEASED <09 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG/IRAN AGREEMENT
TAGS: MASS, TECH, IR, GE, US
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006